

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION,
DMZ AREA NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS**

CONFIDENTIAL

NPIC/R-32/70

MAY 1970

WARNING

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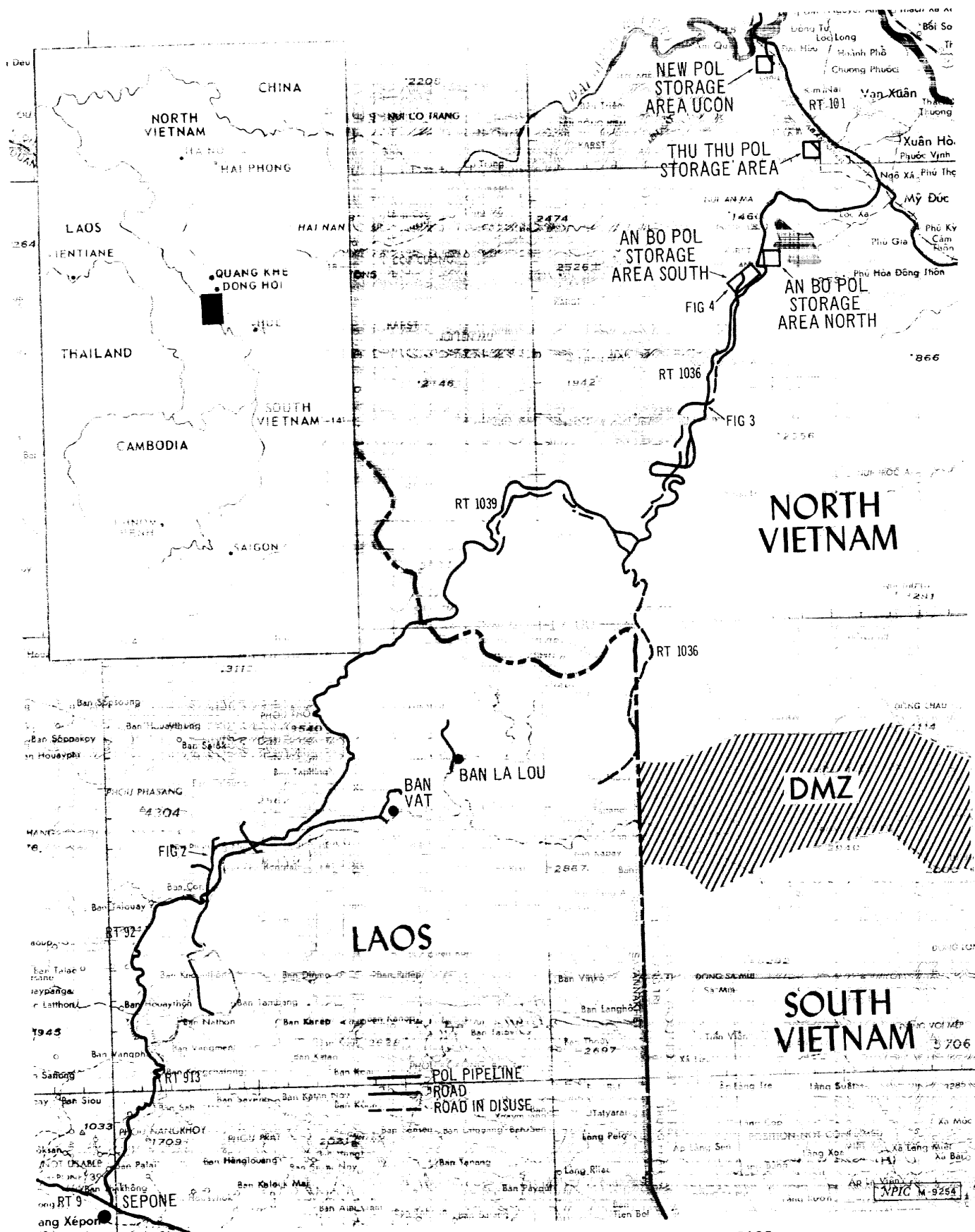


FIGURE 1. POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION, NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS

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ABSTRACT

Construction continues on the POL pipeline between North Vietnam and Laos in the area west of the DMZ. Intermittent pipeline has been identified from Bat Lake in North Vietnam south to the lower Se Bang Hieng (River) valley, 7.5 nautical miles north-northeast of Sepone, Laos.

This report, based on photography through 25X1D [REDACTED] contains text, a location map, and selected photographs.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

25X1D

25X1D

As early as [REDACTED] identification of POL pipe storage in the Bat Lake area of North Vietnam indicated the possible intention of the North Vietnamese to construct a POL pipeline in the area of the Route 1039 North Vietnam-Laos border crossing. In [REDACTED] the first pipeline construction was observed in the Se Bang Hieng valley of Laos near the villages of Ban La Lou and Ban Vat, 4.8 nautical miles (nm) south of the Route 1039 border crossing and 6 nm west of the DMZ (Figure 1).

The construction of a pipeline north of the Se Bang Hieng and west of Ban Vat continued despite severe damage by air strikes to the initially identified line. By early [REDACTED] an additional 7.6 nm of pipeline had been identified, of which approximately 2.3 nm consisted of spur lines leading from the main line to the base of several karst formations. These karst formations possibly contain storage/pumping facilities, although none have been identified on photography (Figure 2).

25X1D 25X1D

In late [REDACTED] additional pipeline construction in Laos extended 4.1 nm south along the west bank of the Se Bang Hieng to a point 7.5 nm north of Sepone. The southernmost portion of this construction is an open trench with no pipe in place.

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

Since [REDACTED] Star-66 trucks carrying POL pipe have been observed periodically south of Bat Lake along North Vietnam Routes 1036 and 1039. No pipeline construction was seen in North Vietnam, however, until [REDACTED] when a short segment of pipe was sighted near Route 1039, 4 nm north of the Laos border. During [REDACTED] an additional 2.6-nm segment of new intermittent pipeline was observed through heavy tree canopy paralleling Route 1039 west of the Route 1036-1039 junction. By [REDACTED] pipeline construction had begun along a 4.5-nm segment of Route 1036 near Bat Lake (Figure 3). At present, no pumping facilities have been observed on this segment, but the pipeline is being constructed through the southern area of the An Bo Petroleum Storage South 25X1A [REDACTED] which was established several years prior to the pipeline construction (Figure 4). This storage area originally contained 36 bunkered storage tanks. Ten of the tanks in the northern part of the area are being removed and may possibly be relocated near the pipeline. At the present time, none of the tanks are connected to the pipeline.

No extension of the pipeline has been identified north of Bat Lake, but new pipeline construction was seen on [REDACTED] at two petroleum storage areas near Route 101 between Bat Lake and Dong Hoi. At the Thu Thu POL Storage Area 25X1D [REDACTED] 6.2 nm north of Bat Lake, approximately 150 meters (492 feet) 25X1A of POL pipeline extend along the east side of the facility, and at least five storage bunkers are connected to this segment by feeder lines. This facility is currently being expanded.

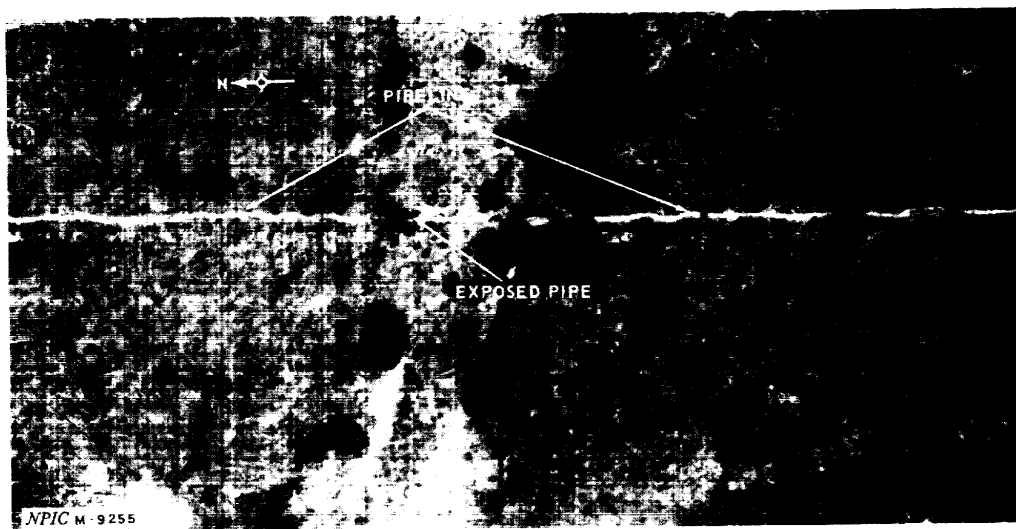
The second storage area, near the east bank of the Dai Giang (River) 2.3 nm north of Thu Thu, is under construction with five empty storage tank excavations observed. A pipeline under construction extends south from the bank of the Dai Giang across Route 101 to the new storage area, a distance of 525 meters (1,722 feet). Trenches for feeder lines lead from the pipeline to the five empty excavations. Except for pipe-served storage areas at Quang Khe and Dong Hoi, no other pipeline construction has been noted in this area of North Vietnam.

Since no pumping facilities or input points have been identified on the pipeline, and construction is continuing in Laos and North Vietnam, the line is probably not yet operational.

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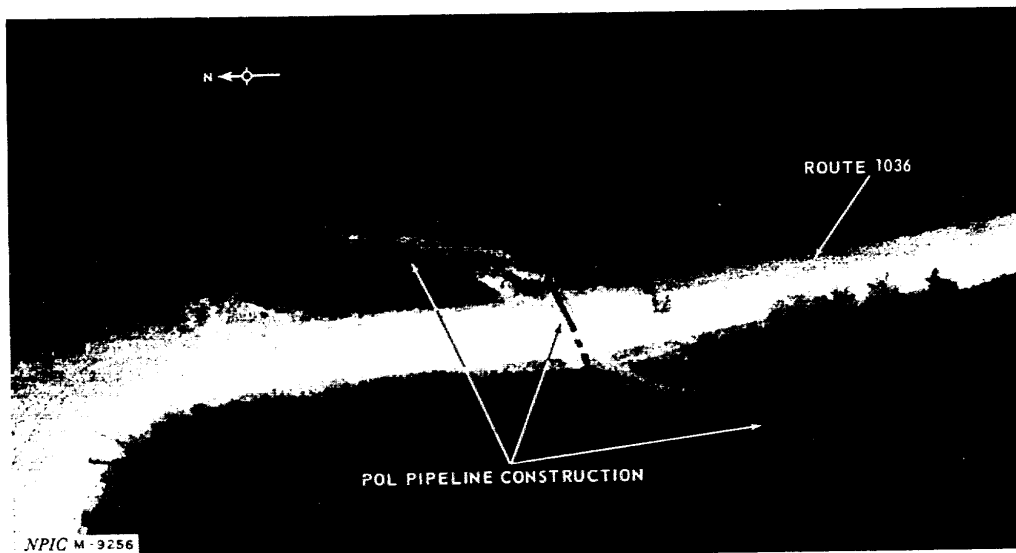
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25X1D

FIGURE 2. POL PIPELINE, SE BANG HIENG (RIVER) VALLEY, LAOS



25X1D

FIGURE 3. POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION, ROUTE 1036, NORTH VIETNAM

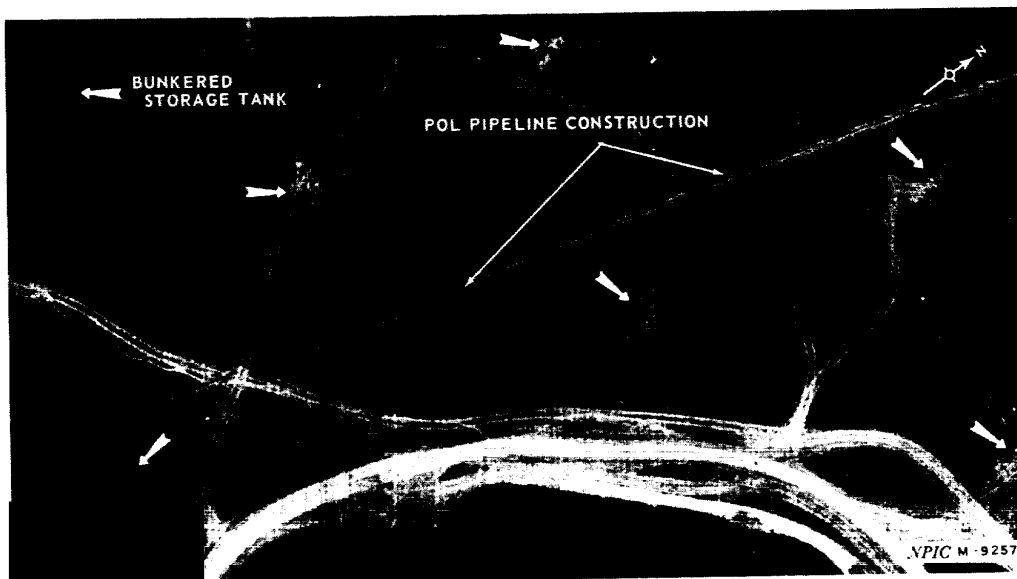


FIGURE 4. POL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION, AN BO STORAGE AREA SOUTH, NORTH VIETNAM

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY 25X1D

Numerous tactical reconnaissance missions from the period 25X1D to [REDACTED] were used in preparing this report.

REQUIREMENT

NPIC Project 250714

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